

those displaced by fighting, and the Colombian justice system, which is valiantly struggling to bring justice to victims of violence.

Thank you, once again to Chairwoman LOWEY. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO NICK FRANKOS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community of Warren, Ohio, who recently passed away. There is a well-known saying which maintains that, 100 years from now, it will not matter what kind of car a person drove or how big their bank account was. The saying affirms that in 100 years, the world may be a better place because of what one person did to help inspire and uplift a child. Very few people in the town of Warren, Ohio, had as profound an impact on so many young lives as Nick Frankos did. A 1943 graduate of Warren G. Harding High School, Frankos was an avid supporter of Warren City Schools and their affiliated athletic teams. Affectionately dubbed "Uncle Nick," he had a paternal, compassionate quality that allowed him to form lifelong bonds with Warren student-athletes and to transform the lives of many of Warren's youth.

In 1956, Frankos opened his much-claimed Buena Vista Restaurant, famous around town for serving "Uncle Nick's Greek Fried Chicken." Not only did the restaurant provide delicious meals, but it also served as a popular hangout for local student athletes, coaches, and fans. There were few, if any, high school football coaches who did not frequent the restaurant and who did not know Frankos on a first-name basis. Last year, Frankos was honored by the Warren City Council for 50 years of business excellence in the town.

In addition to his business endeavors, Frankos also served on the Warren City School Board for 12 years. Frankos was notable for his strong support of high school athletics and for his determination to provide local youth with proper athletic facilities. In particular, Frankos was instrumental in securing support for the construction of a new press box at Warren's Mollenkopf Stadium and for the replacement of part of the stadium's seating area. These improvements serve as a remembrance of the staunch support Frankos gave to Warren high school athletics throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, when "Uncle Nick" Frankos passed away on May 22 at the age of 82, the community of Warren, Ohio lost more than just a businessman. Many local athletes, coaches, and fans lost a friend. The Warren School Board lost a tireless advocate, and the city of Warren lost a dedicated and caring public servant. Most importantly, the area's youth lost a devoted mentor and role model. It is for his contribution to the youth of Warren, Ohio that "Uncle Nick" Frankos should be remembered.

SENATOR BYRD'S 18,000TH VOTE

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD stood in the Senate chamber to do his duty. It was not to deliver a persuasive and enlightening speech featuring laser-focused common sense on the issue at hand. It was not to educate his colleagues on tradition and precedent as the Senate's most prolific historian. And, it was not to politely and eloquently offer an opposing opinion to another Senator's statement. It was to perform what he considers one of his most sacred duties—to cast his vote as a representative of the people.

It was not just any vote, Speaker. It was the 18,000th time that Senator BYRD responded to his duty and it was a monumental moment in the history of the Senate. No other Senator has performed that honored duty as often as the gentleman from West Virginia. He has voted nearly 3,000 more times than the next individual on the list of distinguished public servants who have cast votes in the Senate. He is, truly, the iron man of the United States Senate.

West Virginians love Senator BYRD for many reasons. He has been an avid and effective defender of and advocate for his state; an articulate representative of their views on pressing national issues; and a champion facilitator of federal assistance for thousands of important projects that make peoples' lives better. But, they also love him because of what his never-to-be-matched Senate voting record really represents—an unflinching devotion to the responsibility they have entrusted him to perform.

I have had the honor of watching Senator BYRD for most of my life. He and my father came to Washington together as freshmen members of the House in 1952. Seldom have I ever seen a public servant work so hard to honor the responsibility entrusted to him by his people and the obligation imposed upon him by the United States Constitution.

The range of topics covered by those 18,000 votes must be staggering from the critical to the mundane. But they all received equal attention from Senator BYRD as a sacred duty.

He once wrote that Senators have an obligation to this great Nation to see that the powers of democracy are used effectively to settle important issues. Democracy, he has reasoned, requires us to work together.

He wrote: "Neither presidents nor Congress can act by fiat, but must work together, each keeping a firm eye on the other branch, and each jealously guarding its own prerogatives. At the same time, we are all judged by the American people who elect us. I have frequently said that I have full faith in the restorative powers of our democracy. What is unchecked will be balanced. What is wrong will be righted in time by our open and democratic system of government. So it has been for the first 200 years in the history of the United States Senate, and so it will be in the future."

Madam Speaker, Senator BYRD has expressed his faith in our democracy 18,000 times. Today I humbly honor Senator BYRD not just for casting those 18,000 votes as an

avid practitioner of democracy. I honor him for his faith in America, in people and in the form of government crafted by the framers of our Constitution.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 22, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 257, which puts the Congress on record in support of the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, for introducing this important resolution.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most serious of cancers, it is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States; and is the fifth leading cause of cancer death worldwide. It is responsible for 90 percent of deaths for those who develop the disease.

The incidence of pancreatic cancer is 50–90 percent higher in African Americans than in any other racial group in the United States. Not only is pancreatic cancer more common among African Americans, but African Americans also have the poorest prognosis of any racial group because they often are diagnosed with advanced, and therefore, inoperable cancer. African Americans also are less likely to receive surgery than any other racial group in the United States. Many studies have been conducted to determine why there is an increased risk of pancreatic cancer among African Americans. These studies suggest that environmental and socioeconomic factors may be important. Other risk factors for pancreatic cancer that are more common in African Americans include diabetes mellitus and being overweight.

It is heartbreaking to see people of "minority" status suffering from pancreatic cancer. It is a very deadly disease, but not common enough for everyone to be screened for it. The symptoms are vague and non-descript usually until the disease is so advanced there is little that can be done. We know that cancer can be deadly, but early detection is crucial. We also know how tragic the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer can be because of its rapid decline in the individual that has this particular disease.

I know firsthand from a prominent citizen in my community, someone who was vibrant and contributing, who suffered through the disease of pancreatic cancer, having good days and bad days, having recoveries and then relapses.

So I believe it is extremely important that we support the goals and the ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. The deadliness of this particular form of cancer goes far beyond the average citizen's comprehension. That is why education and awareness is crucial, and a month of Pancreatic Awareness is a good start to the educational process about the disease and the people who have it.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.